Mr. President: I take it that the Honourable Member has leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

When putting the last supplementary grant of a sum of Rs. 250 under "15—7—Committees —Contingency" which was moved, I omited to put the motion before the House. With your leave I put it now.

Demand put and carried

18. Rs. 2,712 under "39—5—Standard cloth—Establishment"

19. Rs. 1,114 under "39—5—Standard cloth—Dearness allowance"

20. Rs. 125 under "39—5—Standard cloth—Travelling allowance"

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I move for Rs. 2,712 under "39—5—Standard cloth—Establishment", Rs. 1,114 under "39—5—Standard cloth—Dearness allowance" and Rs. 125 under "39—5—Standard cloth—Travelling allowance". These 3 amounts are required in connection with the working of the Cochin Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order. Under that scheme several returns have to be submitted to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay and for that purpose a much larger staff than was anticipated had to be appointed. It is to meet the establishment charges T. A. and contingent charges of this staff that these amounts are required. I request that these amounts may be granted.

Demand put and carried

21. Rs. 300 under "15—4—Legislative Council—Salaries—Deputy President"

22. Rs. 75 under "15—4—Legislative Couucil—Miscellaneous"

23. Rs. 463, under "15—4—Legislative Council—Bonus to reporters"

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I move for Rs. 300 under "15—4—Legislative Council—salaries—Deputy President", Rs. 75 under "15—4—Legislative Council—Miscellaneous" and Rs. 463 under "15—4—Legislative Council—Bonus to reporters". The extra grant under salary is required because of the extension of the present Council by one year. When framing the Budget of the current year, provision was made only for ten months and that has now to be further augmented by Rs. 300 for the remaining part of the year. Rs. 75 is on account of miscellaneous charges such as cost of tins, cooly charges and washing of linen. The last item of Rs. 463 due to the increased number of days the reporters had to work. I request that the House may pleased to grant these amounts.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know exactly what amount was being paid to the reporters previously.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Rs. 2—12—0. That is now raised to Rs. 5.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I move that the amount of Rs. 300 for the pay of the Deputy President of the Legislative Council may be deleted. As stated in the Agenda, the cut motion is intended to exhort the Government to dissolve the sitting Legislative Council and order new election fixing a life for it of 5 years. The cut motion, Sir, speaks for itself.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I rise to a point of order, that this cut motion is out of order, because the period to be fixed for the Legislative Council is the prerogative of His Highness. So, the motion is not in order. The Act gives the period to be fixed and the Act cannot be amended by the Council. Therefore any provision by which the Act comes into question, is out of order.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* This is only a recommendation.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* You cannot discuss the Act. It has fixed a period.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* This Council cannot discuss the provision of the Act. Therefore the last portion has to be deleted.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In deference to the wishes of my esteemed friend from Mattancheri and the Hon'ble Advocate-General—my position is that it is discussable—I am prepared to respond to the wishes of both my friends and delete the portion "fixing a period of 5 years". I am quite satisfied with the earlier portoin, *viz.*, "To exhort the Government to dissolve the Council and order new elections." As I submitted before, the cut-motion, Sir, speaks for itself. The normal life of this the 5th Council which is important for reasons more than one.....

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganar):* On a point of Order. For amending a motion, the leave of the President is necessary.

Mr. President : Order, order. I am still waiting to hear the hon'ble member's request to amend the motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I do recognise, Sir, that we are living in a world of technicalities, and I request the permisson of the Hon'ble Chair to allow me to delete the portion reading "fixing a period of 5 years."

Mr. President : If the House is agreeable, I have no objection. [The House agreed].

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I shall now read the cut, Sir, as it stands.—"To exhort the Government to dissolve the Council and order new elections." The normal life of the Council ought to have ended by the 30th of Mithunam 1116 corresponding to 14th of July 1941.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* On a point of order, Sir. Under the prerogative of His Highness, His Highness has extended the life of the Council. May I know whether that can be discussed now.

Mr. President : I think the Hon'ble Member who moved this cut motion is not referring to what has happened in the past, but he is putting forward a recommendation to the Government as to their future action.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* So, Sir, after the 3rd technical objection, I can again proceed. The normal life of the Council ought to have ended on the 14th July 1941. As a result of a petition of no less than 28 persons out of 38 elected members, as seen on page 207 of the Gazette, dated 1st Vrischigam 1116, the period of this Council was extended for another year. I have no complaint, Sir. That is past history. But one or two things that are mentioned in the petition which might have been the reason for extension are very well worth noting. Says this notorius petition, "Owing to the international situation", "owing to the acute economic depression existing in the State," "please do not put the subjects of the State to the strain of a general election" was the prayer. How highsounding words! But did these 28 signatories ever remember that countries which were in the turmoil by the international embroil, *viz.*, Canada, Australia and Ceylon, conducted and efficiently conducted elections in those places? If only they had allowed their minds to consider these things, they would not have done as they did. Anyhow, it is there. From year to year, two more extensions have been granted. I have no complaint either. But, Sir, the ground for moving this cut is there in the last order of extension. Unlike the previous orders which were to the effect that the period of the Council, His Highness has been pleased to extend by one year., here in the last extension order it is stated that there is reserved with government, power to dissolve it earlier according to circumstances. The question therefore, Sir, is whether circumstances exist which demand the dissolution of the Council. It has been always my contention and my happy privilege to note, that more often than not, the policy of our Government had been to respond to popular wishes. And what is it that we find today amongst the public of the State whose representatives 38 plus 8 of us are considered to be? Look round and we find, Sir, that almost every paper worth its name and serve the popular cause, has very vehemently argued the case for the dissolution of the Council. There are leaders in most of the dailies, and many of the weeklies. There are articles in many of them with very cogent reasons. I am sure, Sir, that the English translation of these Malayalam papers will have reached the eyes of the Diwan. The difficulties that are considered to exist stand in the way of the Council beeing dissolved and bye-elections ordered are all only imaginery, Things that will be stated as reasons on the official side, the un-official side, or not wholly stated by members which otherwise are known to them, cannot exist. Perhaps, Sir, difficulties of getting petrol may be trotted out. Want of Vehicles may be a difficulty. But petrol and cars have no place in the scheme of elections is the position I take up. And even if they have a place, Sir, the remedy is there. We have got schools to in almost every village in the State. Every school can be made a voting centre. The question will certainly be put, from interested quarters, Sir, what about the expenditure? Expenditure has to be met, and after all what is the expenditure? Maximum 4 officers with a few peons and the necessary boxes. It is not going to be a big amount, and if there are polling-booths in every village, every man who is desirous of sending a representative to the Council would coolly walk to the polling booth and vote in favour of the person whom he wants to go to the Council. What is it that we have experienced in the course of this extended period? As many as 13 bye-elections have taken place for this reason or that reason, and two are pending and they are going to take place. Yes 13 bye-elections have taken place. So, what is the harm in ordering a fresh elction for 38 constituencies? More than all

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these, what is it that we find? I am sorry, Sir, to refer to a very recent occurence. The Hon'ble Minister has been pleased during the last meeting in February 1944 to set up a very high precedent in the annals of Minister working the State. We saw a confidence motion moved by him although his party is 17 strong. What is behind that extraordinary procedure, I ask. The Hon'ble Minister knows it, and every body else knows it. As many as 20 no-confidence motion have been tabled against the elected Deputy President for this meeting what is behind this quite extraordinary Step? True, some papers in the State have entered upon a mischievous propaganda. And again, Sir, rightly or wrongly same criticism has been very forcefully levelled against the system of payment of honorarium to sitting members.

Mr. President: Order, order. I think the Hon'ble Member is rather wandering from the point. We are concerned with the extension of the Council. The Hon'ble Member must confine himself to that topic.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuttssan *(Vadakkancheri):* Yes, Sir, I am obliged to the Hon'ble Chair for arresting me from my wanderings. And I shall confine myself to the topic, not the extension of the council but the dissolution of it at once. Because of these facts adverted to by me, Sir, I make an earnest appeal to the Hon'ble Members of this Council to respond to the wishes of their constituents.

Mr C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Who knows it?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuttassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Yes, Sir, thanks for the querry of my Hon'ble friend from Kunnamkulam. Persons who have cared to know what their electorate wants to be represented here have known it. Perhaps, some people even if they do know it will not admit it.

Therefore, Sir, I simply put it like this. That the Hon'ble Members of this House be pleased to rise to the occasion and not get the odium that they wish to stick on to this Council, whether their constituents did want them to be here or not. Respond to the wishes of the electorate. Respond to the feelings of the public as evidenced through the news papers, reports and leading articles in them. I leave it there for the present. I commend the resoultion for the acceptance of the House especially the non-official side.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Sir, I support the motion. Today this Council completes its 19th year and I have been here all along and I think can speak with authority that in the eyes of the public the Council has not fallen so low in estimation as at present. I was the member of a Council which threw out the whole General Administration Budget and walked out as a protest against a certain action of the then Diwan and the Council had to be adjourned for want of quorum. I was member of such a Council. Today I find it very difficult even to pass one rupee cut motion. What is the cause for all that. Now, Sir, you see the galleries are empty. What is the reason? They used to fill the galleries to hear the roar of many of the members and now they have realised, as I once said, that they are not the roars of the lions but the howls of the hungry jackals. Such has become the state of affairs here. So I think it is high time to dissolve this Council and to have re-election.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, I oppose the motion. Anyway I am glad that Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar, one of the oldest members of this House who had the greatest parliamentary experience amongst us and who happens to be one of the signatories in the so-called petition, the notorious petition to which Mr. Ezhuthassan has referred to.....

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I never said "notorious".

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* It was then notorious.

.....signatory No. 7, has come round. (Voices: Will you please give us the other names also.)

Mr. President: Order. order.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Mr. C. R. Iyyunni, a big Congressman who has resigned

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan, now a Government officer.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon, who had gone to the jail for one year.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal, who resigned from the Council in connection with the Police Excess in Trichur.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon, then a Congresswoman.

Mrs. C. R. Iyyuuni, supposed to be a Congresswoman who resigned in connection with the Police Excess in Trichur.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar, the Hon'ble Supporter of the motion.
Mr. C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiripad, who happily happens to be absent in this House for the time being.
Mr. C. Kunhan Nambudiripad, who also fortunately happens to be absent.
Mr. A. V. Moothedan, who is also absent.
Mr. K. M. Ibrahim, who has now realised that extension is necessary.
Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* I stick to my guns.
Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar, now in Singapur.
Mr. B. M. Peter, absent.
Mr. A. B. Salem, the so called Democratic Mattancheri Member.
Mr. Popatlal, a nationlist who is absent.
Mr. M. K. Devassi, now Assistant Organizer, National War Front.
Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon, who had been a detenue and who has resigned from this Council.
Mr. Ashtamoorthi Namboodiripad, a member of the nationalist party now absent.
Mr. V. J. Mathai, who has now resigned.
Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar, who has also resigned.
Mr. T. P. Poulose, not present.
Mr. L. M. Pylee, present here.
Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier, a staunch Congressman and a detenue who has resigned.
Mr. Ismail Haji Essa Sait, the leader of the muslims.
Mr. M. L. Joseph, now a Government Officer.
Mr. A. L. Antony, now no more.
Mr. Nanu Menon, Lord Mayor of the London of Cochin State.
Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon, who also resigned because of the Police Excess.
And this petition was forwarded by the Ex. Minister, Dr. A. R. Menon, Leader of the Cochin Congress. *(Shame).* His Highness then extended the Council under section 13, (2) (a) of the Government of Cochin Act. Now at last, though I oppose this motion, I am glad that those signatories to the petition who so privately manipulated things as to make the Government extend the period of the Council and that indefinitely have come to their proper senses three years after.

Now I oppose it because this is a motion which has been brought by a member who himself—I doubt even the bona fides of the resolution.....

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* That is objectionable.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: If it has bona fides he can resign from his seat and face another election. But under the rules he cannot stand in the same constituency. But then the Hon'ble Member has once succeeded in getting election from Mulakunnathukavu, and has fought out an election in Cheruthuruthi can change the constituency by a mutual agreement with the hon'ble members of Cheruthuruthi and Mulakunnathkavu and show he has the peoples' mandate.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I have not even a pocket, not to speak of a pocket constituency.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I think this friend Mr. K. Narayana Menon, now member for Mnlakunnathukavu and with whom he has published a joint manifesto when they resigned from out party, would also resign his seat in this Council, they can exchange constituencies and see that both of them are returned. There will be no technical objection or the disallowing of the nomination paper. Then exemption need not be granted. The same way Mr. Kunhiraman Menon can resign from his seat and can stand for Vadakkancheri. Every member who wants the life of the Council not to be extended can do this. Why should there be a wholesale election in the whole State so that people may detract their attention from the war work? That is the main reason for extension. If the reasons assigned by these Right Hon'ble Members who have signed this petition were true, I think conditions are still more aggravated now. We are in a far greater difficult situation. Personally, I don't mind much about the dissolving of the Council but this sort of motion which has not behind it sufficient *bona fides*.....

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, it is a personal reflection.

Mr. President: There is nothing personal in that at all. The criticism is directed at the Hon'ble Member's motion, not on himself.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I am not ashamed to oppose this motion in this House. The "mother of parliaments" has by special bills and enactments extended the term of the

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Parliament. Putting in petitions without the knowledge of the public for extending the term of the Council is most henious! Such back door methods should not be adopted. I say the Government should never allow such petitions and extend the period of the Council.

I do not think the people of Cochin State were so illiterate or ignorant as not to understand section 13 (2) (a) of the Government of Cochin Act that when once a member is elected, a member is supposed to have been elected for a period of three years or as long as His Highness is pleased to keep him in the Council or keep the Council on. It is under that presumption that people are electing members to the Legislative Council and there is nothing bad about a member continuing in the Council or bad about the Government extending the period of the Council. The fact that the Council was dissolved in Travancore is no excuse here. We have to copy good things from Travancore. There are several other things which the Government ought to have copied here. They may also copy good things from our State also. When Travancore does one thing Madras does one thing, there is no necessity to copy it. I think there is no justification at present in pressing this motion to a division and getting the Council dissolved.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I also rise to oppose this motion. I am a signatory to that petition and it was done most openly. We were satisfied that conditions were such that to plunge the country into a general election would be disastrous in these days. It is said that it has been done in Travancore. If you examine you will find that there are several other reasons for it, and those reasons do not exist here. There is a tug-of-war between a party and the Government there and that party challenged that the Government is keeping the Council for its own purposes.

Mr. President : I think the Hon'ble Member will be well advised not to refer to Travancore's domestic politics.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* All that I wanted to say was the reason for getting the Travancore Council dissolved.

Whatever be the reasons there, those reasons do not exist here and our political conditions are quite different from those, there. There is absolutely a family life here and therefore there is no reason to trouble the country at present with a general election.

Now, let us see what are the conditions? How can you ever conduct an election in any country without paper, without speeches, with the mouths gagged, with no petrol to move about, and no cars and with a war on? How are we to conduct an election? It will be a mere farce. It is an impossibility. The conditions necessary for the peaceful, rightful and righteous conduct of an election are absent. These things being absent it will be unwise on the part of the Government to trouble the people with a general election. These are the reasons that actuated us. It is said that there is a demand from the country. There may be articles calling upon the government to dissolve the present Council and conduct a general election, published in the papers. But that represents the view point of the man who writies it. He ventilates it. Perhaps a person may say I must get a chance. That is all. The public of Cochin very well knows all these things. Has there been a single resolution in any of the constituencies calling upon the Government to dissolve the Council? Not a single resolution has come to my notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* Meetings are prohibited.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* That is exactly what I say. If meetings are prohibited and even election meetings are prohibited, how on earth are we going to conduct an election? How can we speak? There may be persons who may be able to pull the wires here and there. Those scheming persons may come into the Council which is very unhealthy. You must have an open competition and a healthy fight in the constituencies. That is not possible and therefore on the merits this resolution should fail. Let us see how many new members we have now. The members are fresh. As much as 13 to 15 members have vacated their seats and in re-elections, new members have come in. If they are to sit here only for a little while why are they here? We will all come back into our seats. We are not afraid of elections. We in Mattancheri are not at all afraid.

Then let us see another aspect of the point. Is it not good for the country to see experienced people sitting here instead of bringing novices in the place, inexperienced in life and fresh men. Of what use will it be. So the motion is absoluely harmful to the country's interests. And remember also none of these Heads of Departments are going to be changed from their seats. They are veterans and we want veterans also to deal with veterans and therefore the motion goes to the root of things. People resigned on this pretext or other and wanted others also to resign. If you resign you will not come back. None of them came back. They got beaten in the maidan and beaten at the poll. Many in the party resigned thinking that they have got the opinion of the country behined them. With what results? We all know what

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public opinion in this country is. Goverament would be very unwise if they fall into the loop, as it were that has been prepared for them today.

Then he said that the independence of the Council has been shaken by honorarium or something like that. No doubt, that independence to which we were accumstomed is not exhibitted now. Is it because the independence is not in us? No. Conditions have changed. At that time we could not ask a single supplementary question here. Therefore, we faught for those rights. Every official was allowed to transfer from one head to another head the budget items. We budget for one thing and they spend for another. That was the old mamool. We said all these things must be stopped. Now a single pie could not be changed from one item to another without the consent of the Council.

Mr. President: I think the Hon'ble Member is rather wandering away from the point. The Hon'ble Member must confine himself to the point at issue.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* That reason also does not exitst. The independence is still here. If there is occassion for it we will exercise it. On that point there need not be any apprehension in the minds of my hon'ble friends. There is no necessity to exhibit such independence now. We have controlled the Government to such an extent that we have a Minister. Therefore, there is no necessity for you to exhibit that fire that we used to exhibit before. Therefore, Sir, I oppose this resolution in the interests of the country at large and also to see that our model must be the Government of India. The Government of India should be our model because we are under the Government of India directly. Whatever policy the Government of India accept and bring into operation, that should be the policy that we should adopt and follow if we are to go in progressive line pari pasu with progress in India. It is not good to follw this State or that State. We must follow our guide and the Government of India is our guide in all these matters. Whatever they do, we will do well to copy it. Therefore, I think the Government is perfectly right in extending the term of the Council because the Government was satisfied that the reasons represented in the petition are there in a greater degree today than when it was presented to the Government and the model of the Government of India is before them. The Government have done that and I only congratulate the Government for understanding the feelings of the people and the interests of the country and postponing the election during this difficult period and I think the Government is right and I oppose this motion.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Sir, Government should first of all point out that at the time of passing the order extending the present term of the council for another year from 30th Mithunam there was no opposition from any responsible quarter either in this House or from outside. Not one of the leaders or Secretaries or other representatives of the accredited parties here has brought to the notice of the Government that they are against extending the term of the Council.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Were they consulted.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Now also they were not consulted. This cut motion which is now brought today can well have been brought four months ago. Nor again from outside the Council has there been any strong recommendation or representation of that kind. There might have been some articles here and there and from a very narrow section of the public there might have been a cry that there should be an election. But when the Government who get information from all quarters of the State and from all sections of the public and when they are able to see the picture so to say as a whole and when they are convinced that there is no very great demand from any section of the House or any section of the public in the country that there should not be any extension, there is no reason why they should not be guided by more of administrative and such other considerations. Look at the question from the administrative point of view. The whole state is bent on furthering our war efforts. All our officers are working much more than they can normally do to get this or that thing done. Probably everything that is being done, the hon'ble members may not know or the public may not know. But I can assure the House that not only the Secretariat, not only the Revenue Department, every other department practically in some way or other is doing much more than they can normally do in connection with the war and the war efforts and to do anything which will dissipate their energies in any other channel will be very very unwelcome unless there is any real urgent need for it. This is the prime consideration which moved the Government and moved the government in the last three years.

Then another point was difficulty of getting petrol and cars. We all know that our general elections cannot be fought without motor cars and petrol. This is a thing which everyone of us here knows and when there is so much difficulty for a second hand car and for a taxi and when tyres are not available and tubes are not available and when petrol is scarce what is the fun of

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holding a general election and wasting gallons and gallons of oil simply for running about like mad dogs in the street. (Laughter). It will serve no purpose whatsoever and it will deter so much the regular needs of the country. So let us waste no amount of oil, tubes and tyres for this purpose. Let us put it off at least for one year or to years. Similarly also paper.

Then the political situation was such that the Government had to impose a ban on public speeches and public meeting. Government have not yet been able to lift that ban for more reasons than one. Government have been reviewing the situation from time to time and have also noted the opinion on the subject expressed in this House sometimes and also expressed often outside the House. They have not yet been able to lift that ban. They feel that they are justified in keeping that ban on. With that ban on the election will be only a public farce. For all these reasons and especially bearing in mind that there has not been any request from any very responsible quarter not to have these extensions there was no reason why the Government should go out of the way and order an election which will be not only be inconvenient to them but which will hamper their war effort. It was for all these reasons that the Government thought that we may postpone the election for another year.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, after listening to the very able and varied oppositions to this very sound proposition that is placed before this House through this cut, I am constrained Sir, to observe one or two things in reply. I am not concerned with the colour of the signatories to the petition as was required by a very indefatigable Hon'ble Member, nor am I concerned with the very many other irrelevant things stated by the same Hon'ble Member as usual. He stated, Sir, that the constituents were aware then sending their representatives to the Council, of a particular rule in tbe electoral rules that the representatives are not to be here only for three years but for the life of the Council if it is extended whatever be the length of the extension or however obtained. A very fine argument. It requires no reply.

The Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri, Sir, has expatiated upon various things justifying the position of the signatories. The Hon'ble Member was pleased to state that the signature was openly made. I don't know what the Hon'ble Memher means by "openly made". Perhaps, when he signed the paper he was on open ground. If it was with the consultation of the constituents I simply question that statement. I studiously avoided making, Sir, any reference to Travancore. I never mentioned the word "Travancore" at all in the statement I made. My case is strong even without the help of Travancore. I am not responsible for that point raised in reply. Travancore references have, therefore not to be answered by me.

Yes Sir, it was asked, by the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri "where is paper"? We must find it out from where it is is my answer. "No mouth to speak" said my Hon'ble friend again, I do admit ban on public meetings exist. See that it is removed. Exert your force of the tongue to see that it is removed. It is for doing such useful and necessary things that this Council exists. Argue with the Government, force their hands, see that the ban is removed. Yes, force them to do it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Let us do that first.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Yes, Sir, I agree. Please let us concert measures to remove the ban. In reply to an interruption from the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam it was stated Sir, that 13 elections had been conducted. That he says, is an argument why the dissolution should not take place because there is fresh blood in this House. I must confess Sir, before this House that the fresh blood that has come into this Council is finding itself found getting spoiled by admixture with of very much used up and speak out bad blood. I am sorry, Sir, that a veteran politician like the Hon'ble Member for Mattanchari stated that the papers in this State did not reflect popular opinion. A very bad statement to be made.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I did not say that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Yes, let it be so. But note has been taken by persons who are competent to note the correct statement,

After the first extension throughout the State, from one end of the State to the other, there were public meetings demanding the dissolution of the Council. Did the Government care to dissolve the Council? Was that demand responded to? Was not that demand characterised very mischievously that these are got up business? Even if it is got up business was it not there? Was it not there is the question. (*A voice:* How many meetings, please). Search the archives of the Huzur Secretariat and you will find reports. I have addressed many a meeting where the subordinates of the Hon'ble Commissioner of Police were present, I know. Where is the demand! The demand was there when the demand could be made. Now the demand is not possible to be made because we are gagged. Therefore, when the demand is possible to be made that should be our endeavour.

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Then came the very pleasing statement from one Hon'ble Member that we will all come back. By all means let us come back with a fresh mandate, knowing what the people want us to work for. Of the five general elections conducted in the State, in the second, third, fourth and fifth about half the number of old members came back and half the number was new. A very happy combination indeed. I have no quarrel with my experienced friend from Mattancheri coming back, provided he will be the great leader that he was then, which he ought to be now but which unfortunately he is not. He was the Hon'ble Member who fought for throwing out all the grants one after the other. Hon'ble Member Salem, my friend, must have grown wiser I leave it there.

None of the members on the Treasury Benches can be removed and veterans are needed here to fight the veterans there was another argument. What is the reason for the Hon'ble Members on the Treasury Benches being not possible to be removed from there. Where is the fault? Not on this side to be sure. Let this side be stronger and united and let there be new blood on this side. It will vanish like mist. Not that I want them to go away. But the answer is that.

Independence is still here was proclaimed by another Hon'ble Member. There is no use of shutting one's eyes to facts which glare you in the face. What is it that we find? When a cut motion which demands the dissolution of this Council is moved, where are the members of this House? They are in the lobbies! What does it show. Is it responsibility? (*A voice:* They may be in the lobbies). Yes, they are there, but they are not returned to the lobbies, they are returned to there seats in this responsible and honourable House, not to sit here but to work for the people. Independence is still here! Please don't fool ourselves and others. Then it was said, Sir, there is the Minister. Whoever said that the Minister is not here. The Minister is there. The earlier he is allowed to go out of that seat the gladder will he be to come back with fresh vigour to work the constitution. That is the sort of Minister that you have got there. Then there was the usual congratulation of the Government By all means congratulate. That may be paying. But remember, that the Government will be laughing in their sleeves.

One or two words with regard to the Hon'ble Secretary's speach. No demand or suggestion was made before passing orders! Was anybody consulted? I enquired and the answer was in the negative. Therefore, no further reply is required. And when demand was made after the first extension and before the second extension, was it responded? Then, again, where is the necessity for such a demand. The budget for 1119 provides a sum for election expenditure. Budget provided only for 9 months' pay of the Deputy President. We expected and reasonably expected that the Council will be dissolved after this sitting. Then where is the necessity for the demand. Futher reply is not necessary to the Hon'ble Secretary's points.

Desultory articles in the papers! I am again sorry that the Hon'ble Secretary has unfortunately quoted the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri. That is not the sort of papers that we have. If there be one or two such papers for particular reasons.....

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is not any reflection on any newspaper. I simply said that there was not any consistent effort on the part of any paper to have a general election. That is what I said.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The Malabar Mail, an esteemed daily of Ernakulam, the Gomathi, an esteemed daily of Trichur (question). Yes even the question is qnestioned. Various weeklies (question).....Sir, I have got all the papers on my desk and I am sure the Government would have got cuttings there of. Very learned signed articles, one appearing in the last week in the Malabar Mail by a very responsible churchman *A voice:* Churchman has no business.) *Another voice:* Is he a voter). I have no mind to reply if this is the sort of responsibility that we want.

From the administrative point of view all our officers are hard-worked was another argument I do concede that they are hard-worked in connection with the war, especially in connection with our ration scheme. Then what about the Calcutta Corporation, nearer the scene of war, having bombs on their heads almost every day and undergoing a worse ordeal in the food question than ours? I wait for a reply. No reply comes. No reply can be attempted.

No second hand cars, no petrol, is yet another point. I wish these were not stated. The election returns which are absolutely compulsory to be submitted within time, how many of them contain, I ask, search for all years, except a solitary car used by the Member concerned. Why hide facts? Why hide facts I ask? What is finding of the Election Trimbunal with regard to the use of Cars in elections. My Hon'ble.....friend from Mattancheri knows it. Let us face facts.

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Ban on public meetings! I am again sorry that the Hon'ble Secretary has unnecessarily referred to the possibility of the ban being removed in this connection. The ban has to be removed. The loyal and loving subjects of His Highness, what are they going to do if public meetings are allowed to be held? Is there not our efficient Commissioner of Police ready with all his weapons, powder and shot being kept ready by him. Therefore, try the experiment. Lift the ban please!

One more word and I have done. My Hon'ble Friend from Mattanchri has been saying that we are a happy family. Well, sir, this happy family is not suited for the advancement of the Cochin State as a whole, for making the Government of Cochin completely responsible. It is a different sort of members that is wanted. It is a more responsible class of people who will be responsible to the constituents. Not members who for this reason or that reason would like to continue here. Therefore, sir, it is my painful duty to press this motion to a division.

Motion put and lost

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* A Poll, sir.

Ayes

Messrs. 1. P. Narayana Menon
" 2. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar
" 3. A. Eachara Menon
" 4. V. K. Bhaskara Menon
" 5. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan
" 6. K. Kunhiraman Menon
" 7. M. Krishna Menon.

Noes

1. Khan Sahib Ismail Haji Easa Sait
2. Mr. A. B. Salem
3. Mr. Ephraim Ouseph
4. Mr. Joseph Pettah
5. Mr. C. V. Iyyu
6. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim
7. Mr. K. R. Achyuthan
8. Kr. K. T. Achyuthan
9. Mr. N. V. Subbarayan Chettiar
10. Mr. C. J. Luiz
11. Mr. V. K. Kutty
12. Mr. P. K. Krishnan
13. Rama Varmha Tampuran
14. Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu
15. Mr. C. J. Mathew
16. Mr. B. V. K. Menon
17. Mr. M. Sivarama Menon
18. Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur
19. Rao Sahib M. M. Paul
20. Mr. S. Venkiteswaran
21. Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese
22. Rao Sahib I. N. Menon
23. Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
24. Mr. P. V. Raphael

Mr. President: 7 for and 24 against. The motion is lost.

(The House rose for lunch at 1.45 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-45 p.m. with the Hon'ble President in the Chair)

Mr. President: The motion before the House is that the Government be sanctioned a supplementary grant of Rs. 463 under "15-4-Legislative Council—Bonus to reporters".

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkenchri):* Sir, I move that an amount of Re. 1 be reduced from Rs. 463 under 15-4-Legislative Council—Bonus to reporters. The object of the cut motion is to enquire what the former rates and the enhanced rates are and exhort the Government to remunerate the reporters more decently. The information that the bonus is enhanced has already been supplied. My attempt is only to request the Government to remunerate the reporters more decently.

Mr. President: Then the implication of the motion is that the revised rates are not decent?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The remuneration, sir, in the shape of bonus to the reporters of this House, it was stated, was Rs. 3 which was subsequently reduced to Rs. 2—12—0 and now finaly raised to Rs. 5. The House is very much appreciative of the fact that from Rs. 2—12—0, the Government have been pleased to raise the amount to Rs. 5. But the complaint through the cut motion is that for the work these reporters do from hour to hour sitting here and listening to various sorts of speeches—I am told by the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur boaring speeches—there are boaring speeches I concede and a good part of

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it emanate from me, I am prepared to concede even to that extent subjecting themselves to that ordeal for one hour, I think for each shift, after that to contiune with the work and give us the copies for correction if we care to correct, is a work which is not to be remunerated in the ordinary way. It has to be remunerated in an exemplary and exceptional line. Being one who gives maximum work to these reporters I know the strain to which they are put and it is most appropriate that I plead their cause. It has been suggested by a veteran member of this House that in good things this Government may be pleased to follow Travancore. Let us see how Travancore works in this matter. Here it is very well known to every Hon'ble Member that these reporters are shorthand reporters attached to various offices, called here for special work in connection with the Council for which they are given this bonus and their scale of pay is Rs. 25—40 with an increment of Rs. 3 in two years and when they reach 40 in ten years, an annual increment of Rs. 4 is given going up to Rs. 60. They have therefore got a scale of Rs. 25—60 reachable in a certain number of years. That is the scale. In addition to that for this work they get Rs. 5. What do we find in Travancore? There the scale of the reporters is higher, one on Rs. 125—150, two on 100—125, yet another two on 80—100 (English Reporters). Then Malayalam—one on 80—100 two hands on 60—80 and two more hands on Rs. 40—70—that is what is obtaining in Travancore. Then when compared with their Travancore brothers and sisters the position of our reporters is something which bears no comparison. My endeavour through this cut motion is not to requset the Government that the same scale for shorthand writers be adopted here. I only incidently referred to that to show the difference. So my respectful submission to this House is that they may be pleased to vote—not that I am very particular about votes—I want to inform the Government about the propriety of giving something more than Rs. 5 which is commensurate with the sort of work that they do. There are members of this House who speak at electric speed. There are as my Hon'ble friend from Cranganur pointed out, persons who give boaring speeches. There are those who make mixed speeches beginning with English, continue in Malayalam and end in English. So the reporters have always to be vigilent, when does this Hon'ble Member jump from English to Malayalam, when does so and so get up and what sort of speech we are going to have. For all this my respectful submission is that these reporters may be decently remunerated. This is only a suggestion to the Government for their favourable consideration at an early date.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I also rise to support this motion. These young men and young ladies that come into our Council should have a feeling that they are doing good work and that we are appreciating their work. We are only giving bonus to them. In these days to give a bonus only would not matter much and it is only as a matter of encouragement that we give to our reporters, so that they may also have the feeling that we are always mindful of their services. After all, Sir, in modern days you and I are in their hands. They can make and unmake. Very bad speeches made, when they type and give, become good speeches. So as a mark of appreciation of their worth and work, I also support this motion to give them an encouragement and I hope the Government will be pleased to generously consider the matter.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Only a few months Government raised the bonus from 2-12-0 to Rs. 5. I therefore regret, they cannot accept this motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In spite of the Government reply I do not propose to press the motion because I am sure that the Government will be prepared to respond to the wishes of the people later on but not at a distant future. We hope it will be before the budget session.

Motion by leave withdrawn

Demands put and carried

24. Rs. 1,200—0—0 under "38-Income-tax—contingencies Printing charges'
25. Rs. 1,950—0—0 „ "38-Income tax—B. Allowance—Dearnes Allowance"

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment, of Rs. 1,200 under "38—Income-tax—Contingencies—Printing charges" and for Rs. 1,950 under "38—Income-tax—B. Allowance—Dearnes Allowance". I request that the House may be pleased to vote these amounts.

Demands put and carried

26. Rs. 5,055 under "10-Stamps—Purchase of Stamps and Stamp papers".

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 5,055 under "10—Stamps—Purchase of stamps and stamp papers".

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